

Technical Update

for Municipal Drinking Water Systems

Categories of Municipal Drinking Water Systems

The Drinking Water Systems Regulation, made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, came into effect June 1, 2003. It sets out four categories of municipal drinking water systems. Specific requirements for each category differ depending on the size and population served.

- **Large Municipal Residential:** A municipal drinking water system that serves a major residential development of more than 100 private residences.
- **Small Municipal Residential:** A municipal drinking water system that serves fewer than 101 private residences.
- **Large Municipal Non-Residential** (large community centres, recreational and sports complexes, municipally-owned industrial parks/airports, for example): A municipal drinking water system that does not serve a residential development and is capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second.
- **Small Municipal Non-Residential** (community centres, for example): A municipal drinking water system that does not serve a residential development, is not capable of supplying drinking water at a rate of more than 2.9 litres per second, and serves a designated facility or a public facility. By restricting the definition to systems serving a designated or public facility, systems serving municipal workplaces, such as fire halls or maintenance depots, are excluded from this category and are not subject to the requirements of O. Reg. 170/03.

Definitions

Major Residential Development (defined in the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*): Major residential development means a development of six or more private residences on one or more properties.

Private Residence (defined in O. Reg. 171/03): For the purposes of the definition of “private residence” in subsection 2 (1) of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, a private residence is a dwelling place occupied for an extended period of time by the same persons, if,

- the residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy,
- food preparation, personal hygiene, and sleeping accommodations are not communal in nature, and
- any use of the dwelling place by a resident for a home occupation, trade, business, profession or craft is secondary to the use of the dwelling place as a residence and does not use more than 25 per cent of the indoor floor area.

Designated Facility (defined in O. Reg. 170/03) means:

- a children's camp,
- a delivery agent care facility,
- a health care facility,
- a school or private school,
- a social care facility, or
- a university, a college of applied arts and technology, or an institution with authority to grant degrees.

Public Facility (defined in O. Reg. 170/03) means:

- food premises, as defined in the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*,
- a place that operates primarily for the purpose of providing overnight accommodation to the traveling public,
- a trailer park or campground,
- a marina,
- a church, mosque, synagogue, temple or other place of worship,
- a recreational camp,
- a recreational or athletic facility,
- a place, other than a private residence, where a service club or fraternal organization meets on a regular basis, or
- any place where the general public has access to a washroom, drinking water fountain or shower.

For more information, contact:

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